

Research Foundation for SUNY  
Mail Handling Services  
777 E Park Dr  
Harrisburg, PA 17111



August 13, 2021

### Notice of Data Breach

Dear [REDACTED]

The Research Foundation for The State University of New York understands the importance of protecting information. We are writing to inform you that we recently identified and addressed a security incident that involved some of your information. This notice explains the incident and the measures we have taken in response and provides some additional steps you can take.

#### **What Happened?**

We recently discovered unusual network activity that caused certain systems in our network to become unavailable. We immediately began an investigation, a cybersecurity firm was engaged, and measures were taken to address the incident and to restore the systems. We also notified law enforcement and worked to support its investigation. We learned that there was unauthorized activity in our network between May 22, 2021 and July 9, 2021. During that time, an unauthorized party obtained files stored on our file servers.

#### **What Information was Involved?**

We conducted a careful review of the files obtained and other files on the file servers, and we determined between July 14, 2021 and August 3, 2021 that the files contained some of your information, including your name and Social Security number.

#### **What We Are Doing.**

To help prevent something like this from happening again, we are taking steps to further enhance the security of our network.

#### **What You Can Do.**

As a precaution, we have arranged for you to receive a complimentary one-year membership to Experian's® IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup> credit monitoring service. This product helps detect possible misuse of your information and provides you with identity protection services focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft. IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup> is completely free to you, and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on identity theft prevention and IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup>, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary one-year membership, as well as some additional steps you can take in response, please see the additional information provided in this letter.

#### **For More Information.**

We regret that this occurred and apologize for any inconvenience. If you have additional questions, please call 1-800-325-4135, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern Time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Jeff M. Cheek".

Dr. Jeff Cheek  
President & Chief Executive Officer

## Activate IdentityWorks Credit 3B Now in Three Easy Steps

To help protect your identity, we are offering a **complimentary** one-year membership of Experian IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup> Credit 3B. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with superior identity protection support focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft.

1. ENROLL by: **11/04/2021** (Your code will not work after this date.)
2. VISIT the **Experian IdentityWorks website** to enroll:[\*\*link\*\*](#)
3. PROVIDE the **Activation Code**: [\*\*code\*\*](#)

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with identity restoration or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at **877-288-8057**. Be prepared to provide engagement number **XXXXX** as proof of eligibility for the identity restoration services by Experian.

### **ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 12-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS CREDIT 3B MEMBERSHIP:**

A credit card is **not** required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks Credit 3B.

You can contact Experian **immediately without needing to enroll in the product** regarding any fraud issues. Identity Restoration specialists are available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.

Once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks, you will have access to the following additional features:

- **Experian credit report at signup:** See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.\*
- **Credit Monitoring:** Actively monitors Experian, Equifax and Transunion files for indicators of fraud.
- **Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE™:** You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- **\$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance\*\*:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

Activate your membership today at [\*\*https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit\*\*](https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit)  
or call **877-288-8057** to register with the activation code above.

**What you can do to protect your information:** There are additional actions you can consider taking to reduce the chances of identity theft or fraud on your account(s). Please refer to [www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration](http://www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration) for this information. If you have any questions about IdentityWorks, need help understanding something on your credit report or suspect that an item on your credit report may be fraudulent, please contact Experian's customer care team at **877-288-8057**.

\* Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

\*\* The Identity Theft Insurance is underwritten and administered by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, an Assurant company. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

## **ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE**

We remind you it is always advisable to be vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements and free credit reports for any unauthorized activity. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. To order your annual free credit report, please visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

- *Equifax*, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com), 1-800-685-1111
- *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com), 1-888-397-3742
- *TransUnion*, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com), 1-800-916-8800

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your state. You can obtain information from these sources about steps an individual can take to avoid identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. You should also contact your local law enforcement authorities and file a police report. Obtain a copy of the police report in case you are asked to provide copies to creditors to correct your records. Contact information for the Federal Trade Commission is as follows:

- *Federal Trade Commission*, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft)

### **Fraud Alerts and Credit or Security Freezes:**

**Fraud Alerts:** There are two types of general fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud—an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for one year. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft with the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years.

To place a fraud alert on your credit reports, contact one of the nationwide credit bureaus. A fraud alert is free. The credit bureau you contact must tell the other two, and all three will place an alert on their versions of your report.

For those in the military who want to protect their credit while deployed, an Active Duty Military Fraud Alert lasts for one year and can be renewed for the length of your deployment. The credit bureaus will also take you off their marketing lists for pre-screened credit card offers for two years, unless you ask them not to.

**Credit or Security Freezes:** You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, which makes it more difficult for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. That's because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they can't see your report, they may not extend the credit.

*How do I place a freeze on my credit reports?* There is no fee to place or lift a security freeze. Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a security freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company. For information and instructions to place a security freeze, contact each of the credit reporting agencies at the addresses below:

- **Experian Security Freeze**, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
- **TransUnion Security Freeze**, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)
- **Equifax Security Freeze**, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

You'll need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information.

After receiving your freeze request, each credit bureau will provide you with a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place. You will need it if you choose to lift the freeze.

*How do I lift a freeze?* A freeze remains in place until you ask the credit bureau to temporarily lift it or remove it altogether. If the request is made online or by phone, a credit bureau must lift a freeze within one hour. If the request is made by mail, then the bureau must lift the freeze no later than three business days after getting your request.

If you opt for a temporary lift because you are applying for credit or a job, and you can find out which credit bureau the business will contact for your file, you can save some time by lifting the freeze only at that particular credit bureau. Otherwise, you need to make the request with all three credit bureaus.

The Research Foundation for the State University of New York is located at 35 State Street, Albany, New York 12207 and can be reached at (518) 434-7000.